

CLAIMS

1. Device for preventing laces coming undone in the form of a band (1)
5 in the open position, arranged to cover a lace (3) of a shoe (4) and comprising
 - a left-hand end (12, 13) and a right-hand end (13, 12)
- 10 - a means of fixing to the said shoe (4)
 - a series of orifices (2) for the lace (3) to pass,
- 15 the said device being designed to be folded down in such a way that the left-hand side (12, 13) is fixed to the right-hand side (13, 12) when it is in a closed position by a mutual fixing means (6, 7), characterised in that the length of the said device (1) for preventing laces coming undone is substantially perpendicular to the axial direction of the shoe (4) and in that the said device (1) for preventing laces coming undone is designed,
20 when it is in the closed position, to only partially cover the lace (3), in particular partially the loops (5) of a knot (8) of a lace (3), when the latter is knotted.
- 25 2. Device (1) for preventing laces coming undone according to claim 1, characterised in that the mutual means (6, 7) of fixing the said left-hand side (12, 13) of the device for covering laces to the right-hand side (13, 12) are mutual self-gripping means (6, 7).
- 30 3. Device (1) for preventing laces coming undone according to one of claims 1 or 2, characterised in that the series of orifices (2) for the lace (3) to pass comprises several orifices (2) for the lace (3) to pass.

4. Device (1) for preventing laces coming undone according to one of claims 1 to 3, characterised in that at least one of the orifices (2) for the lace (3) to pass in the said series is in the form of a slit.
5. Device (1) for preventing laces coming undone according to one of claims 1 to 4, characterised in that it comprises a series of lace passage orifices (2) comprising two orifices (2) in the form of a slit and two substantially circular orifices (2), the said slits (2) being situated one above the other parallel to a long side of the said device (1) for preventing laces coming undone, the two substantially circular orifices (2) being situated in particular on each side of the two slits (2) with respect to the said long side of the said device (1).
6. Device (1) for preventing laces coming undone according to one of claims 1 to 5, characterised in that the device (1) can comprise a repetition of the patterns of the orifices (2), the said patterns being situated one above the other parallel to a long side of the said device (1).
7. Device (1) for preventing laces coming undone according to one of claims 1 to 6, characterised in that the length is between 5 cm and 10 cm and is more particularly approximately 6.5 cm, and the width is between 1 cm and 5 cm and is preferably approximately 2 cm or approximately 4.5 cm according to the model.

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8. Device (1) for preventing laces coming undone according to one of claims 1 to 7, characterised in that the said band (1) is formed by a piece made from leather, textile, flexible plastics material, articulated metal or any material that is deformable in order to bring the band (1) into its closed position.

9. Device (1) for preventing laces coming undone according to one of claims 1 to 8, characterised in that the said means of fixing the said device to the shoe consist partly of the said lace (3).

5 10. Assembly comprising

- a device (1) for preventing laces coming undone according to one of claims 1 to 9,

10 - a shoe (4) with a lace (3) comprising a rectangular-shaped tongue (9) and a lace (3),

characterised in that the device (1) for preventing laces coming undone is an integral part of the tongue (9) of the shoe (4).

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11. Assembly according to claim 10, characterised in that the device (1) for preventing laces coming undone and the orifices (2) are cut in at least one layer of material constituting the said tongue (9).

20 12. Assembly according to one of claims 10 or 11, characterised in that the device (1) for preventing laces coming undone is cut in the top half of the said tongue (9).